

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, and 8-10 are independent. Claims 1, 4, and 8-10 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added.

Abstract Objection.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract because of the phrase "An object of the present invention is to provide" in the first sentence. Applicant respectfully submits that the abstract has been amended to exclude the objected phrase.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0064707 to Yoneyama (hereinafter "Yoneyama"). However, to anticipate a claim under § 102, a single prior art reference must disclose every element of the claim. MPEP § 2131. Yoneyama fails to do so.

As amended, independent claims 1 and 4 recite, in part:

An e-mail viewing device comprising:

a mail storage storing a plurality of e-mails;

... ; and

a mail search portion searching for an e-mail stored in said mail storage on the basis of the e-mail displayed on the mail viewing screen, wherein

when said operation unit accepts the mail switching operation first input after said e-mail is displayed on said mail viewing screen, said mail search portion searches said plurality of e-mails, and generates index data for arranging in time sequence each of said plurality of e-mails based on a transmission time of sent e-mail or a reception time of received e-mail,

said display processor displays the e-mail extracted by said mail search portion on the basis of the mail switching operation of the user in time sequence based on said index data,

said operation input unit includes a first operation input means for accepting a first mail switching operation and a second operation input means for accepting a second mail switching operation, said first operation input means being different from said second operation input means,

when said first operation input means continuously accepts said first mail switching operation for a pre-determined time during display of said displayed e-mail, said display processor displays another e-mail sent before said displayed e-mail or received before said displayed e-mail, and displays a last sent or received e-mail when said another e-mail sent before or received before said displayed e-mail does not exist in said mail storage, and

when said second operation input means continuously accepts said second mail switching operation for said pre-determined time during display of said displayed e-mail, said display processor displays another e-mail sent after said displayed e-mail or received after said displayed e-mail, and displays a first sent or received e-mail when said another e-mail sent after or received after said displayed e-mail does not exist in said mail storage.

In contrast, Yoneyama discloses that a user displays a retrieved e-mail message or the most-recent received message "simply by single-clicking a software button on the screen." (Paragraph 0015). Yoneyama does not disclose continuous acceptance for a pre-determined time during display of the displayed e-mail of an operation of first and second operation input means to effect display of another e-mail. Yoneyama does not disclose that a last sent/received e-mail is displayed if no previous e-mails exist in the mail storage when the first operation input means is engaged; nor does Yoneyama disclose that a first sent/received e-mail is displayed if no subsequent e-mails exist in the mail storage when the second operation input means is engaged. Moreover, Yoneyama does not disclose generation of index data corresponding to transmission/reception times of emails in the mail storage.

Furthermore, the storage portion of the Yoneyama terminal is not disclosed as storing a retrieved message, much less "storing a plurality of e-mails", as recited in independent claims 1 and 4. Instead, it stores "processing programs, ... contact list data, search key words from e-mail messages, etc." The Office Action alleges that because a display portion retrieves a past e-mail message, it is implied that the message is stored in the device's storage portion. However, the fact that a certain result or characteristic *may* occur or be present in the prior art is not sufficient to establish the inherency of that result or characteristic. MPEP §2112.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 4 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-3 and 5-7 depend from claims 1 and 4 and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth for claims 1 and 4. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-7 and withdrawal of the corresponding rejections in view of these remarks.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 8-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoneyama and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0032743 to Lee et al. (hereinafter "Lee").

As amended, independent claims 8-10 variously recite, in part:

An email editing device ... wherein,
said display processor displays the reference mail extracted by said mail search portion onto the mail reference screen on the basis of the mail switching operation of the user and displays a cursor in said mail edition screen, and
in response to an operation to cause said cursor to be displayed on said mail reference screen, said reference processor switches its operation mode into a mode for copying said object.

To establish *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. At least one of those criteria is not satisfied in regard to claims 8-17; namely, a prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP §2143. More particularly, neither Yoneyama nor Lee discloses placement of a cursor in a mail edition screen. More importantly, neither reference discloses that an operation causes the cursor to be displayed on a mail reference screen and concurrently switches the reference processor into a mode for copying an object, as variously recited by independent claims 8-10.

Moreover, independent claims 8-10 recite either "a mail storage storing a plurality of reference mails" or "a mail storage storing data of each of a plurality of e-mails". Lee does not disclose this feature, and thus does not remedy the deficiency of Yoneyama set forth above for claims 1 and 4.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 8-10 are in condition for allowance. Claims 11-17 depend from claim 10 and are thus believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 8-17 in view of these remarks.

Application No. 10/522,749
Amendment dated December 28, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 11, 2007

Docket No.: 0033-0978PUS1

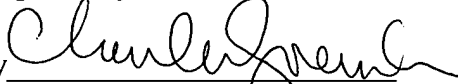
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James C. Larsen, Reg. No. 58,565 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 28, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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